

Top general urges more U.S. troops in eastern Europe

By LOLITA C. BALDOR and ROBERT BURNS

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States should look at the development of more bases in Eastern Europe to protect against Russian aggression, but rotate forces through them rather than make permanent deployments, the top U.S. military officer told Congress on Tuesday.

Army Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the basing could be funded by other countries such as Poland and the Baltics that want more U.S. troops. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said any effort to expand security in Eastern Europe is a "work in progress" that probably will be discussed at the NATO summit in June.

Milley and Austin were testifying before the House Armed Services Committee on the 2023 budget proposal, but much of the focus of the hearing was the Russian war against Ukraine and what the U.S. can do to better help Ukraine and strengthen security across Europe.

Milley was asked about the need to reallocate forces to Europe's eastern flank, where NATO allies are worried that they may be Russia's next target.

"My advice would be to create permanent bases but don't permanently station (forces), so you get the effect of permanence by rotational forces cycling through permanent bases," he said.

Continued on Page 2



Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark Milley speaks during a House Armed Services Committee hearing on the fiscal year 2023 defense budget, Tuesday, April 5, 2022, in Washington. Associated Press

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Top general urges more U.S. troops in eastern Europe

Continued from front

"I believe that a lot of our European allies, especially those such as the Baltics or Poland and Romania, and elsewhere — they're very, very willing to establish permanent bases. They'll build them, they'll pay for them," Austin added that he recently visited and spoke with leaders in the Baltics, noting that they made it clear they value U.S. troops there. "We'll continue to work with NATO to assess what the requirements will be moving forward," Austin said. "We will be part of that solution."

The Pentagon is continuing to review its troop numbers across Europe, and whether to add more or shift some of those already



Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark Milley listens as Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin speaks during a House Armed Services Committee hearing on the fiscal year 2023 defense budget, Tuesday, April 5, 2022, in Washington.

there to other locations. Milley said Tuesday that while there are no decisions yet, there's a possibility, if not a probability, of increase U.S. troops in Europe, and that need could be filled by ro-

tational forces.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg announced last month that NATO is creating four new battlegroups, which usually number between 1,000

troops and 1,500 troops, to send to Hungary, Slovakia, Romania and Bulgaria. NATO allies are set to discuss additional security measures at the upcoming summit.

Milley has advocated using rotational forces more around the globe to defray the costs of permanently stationing troops and their families in allied countries at risk of war, such as South Korea and in the Persian Gulf. He said using this would eliminate some of the costs associated with schools, housing and other such services.

Rotational forces deploy for shorter periods of time. Permanent forces are often deployed for two years to three years.

Milley also agreed that Moscow's aggression in Ukraine, and its ongoing demands that the U.S. and NATO reduce troops and arms in European countries along Russia's borders, signal a lengthy conflict in the region that extends beyond Ukraine.

"I do think this is a very protracted conflict and I think it's at least measured in years. I don't know about decades, but at least years for sure," said Milley. "I think that NATO, the United

States, Ukraine and all of the allies and partners that are supporting Ukraine are going to be involved in this for quite some time."

Austin added that the broad Russian demands were not acceptable to NATO, and the U.S. is looking at ways to provide additional aid and training to countries, including non-NATO allies such as Georgia and Finland.

Members of Congress pressed Austin and Milley on what could have stopped Russia from invading Ukraine, and that sanctions did not work as a deterrent. Both said that the only possible way to deter Russian may have been to put U.S. troops on the ground inside Ukraine, but that option was rejected because it risked a broader U.S. war with Russia. Milley said he isn't sure Russian President Vladimir Putin was deterrable since invading Ukraine has been a long-term goal for Moscow. Milley and Austin also told the committee that the U.S. has learned a number of things as it has watched Russia struggle to fight against an unexpectedly fierce Ukrainian defense over the past month. They said Russia has significant military capabilities but has been unable to use them effectively.

Austin said Russian forces lack training among their noncommissioned officers and the Kremlin has been unable to get the supplies and logistics needed to ground troops.

Austin said Ukraine has used Stinger and Javelin missiles effectively against Russian troops and weapons. Milley said that Ukraine's junior officers, many trained by the U.S., have shown initiative and good command and control abilities. □

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Ivanka Trump testifies before House Jan. 6 panel

By MARY CLARE JALONICK,
LISA MASCARO and
FARNOUSH AMIRI
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ivanka Trump, former President Donald Trump's daughter and one of those closest to him during the insurrection at the Capitol, is testifying before the House panel investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, attack.

Mississippi Rep. Bennie Thompson, the committee's chairman, said Tuesday afternoon that she had been answering investigators' questions on a video teleconference since the morning and was not "chatty" but had been helpful to the probe.

"She came in on her own" and did not have to be subpoenaed, Thompson said. Ivanka Trump, who was with her father in the White House that day, is one of more than 800 witnesses the committee has interviewed as it works to compile a record of the attack, the worst on the Capitol in more than two centuries. She the first of Trump's children known to speak to the committee and one of the closest people to her father. Whether she gives the committee new information or not, her decision to cooperate is significant for the panel, which has been trying to secure an interview with her since late January. The nine-member panel is particularly focused on what the former president was doing as his supporters broke into the Capitol and interrupted the certification of President Joe Biden's victory.

Ivanka Trump's testimony comes less than a week after her husband, Jared Kushner, testified to the committee in a separate virtual meeting that lasted more than six hours. Members of the panel said his testimony was helpful and were hoping to further fill in the gaps with her help.

The panel is using the interviews to compile a comprehensive record and will begin to release information in the coming months as it holds public hearings and releases a series of reports



Ivanka Trump, daughter and adviser to President Donald Trump, waves to supporters during a campaign event Nov. 2, 2020, at the Iowa State Fairgrounds, in Des Moines, Iowa.

Associated Press

on the insurrection. While Congress doesn't have power to charge anyone with a crime, members of the panel say the objective is to create the most comprehensive record possible so nothing like it ever happens again.

Lawmakers have said they want to discuss what Ivanka Trump knew about her father's efforts, including a telephone call they say she witnessed, to pressure then-Vice President Mike Pence to reject Biden's 2020 election win as part of his ceremonial role overseeing the electoral count. Pence rejected those efforts.

The committee is also interested in any concerns she may have heard from Pence's staff, members of Congress and the White House counsel's office about Trump's pressure on Pence.

Ivanka Trump's cooperation stands in contrast with some of her father's other top advisers, several of whom have refused to cooperate as the former president has fought the probe. Trump has tried to exert executive privilege over documents and interviews, but in many cases has been overruled by courts or Biden, who has that authority as the sitting president.

The House is expected to vote this week to recommend contempt charges

for Trump advisers Peter Navarro and Dan Scavino,

both of whom the committee says have been uncooperative. The committee previously voted to recommend contempt charges against longtime Trump ally Steve Bannon, who defied a congressional subpoena, and White House chief of staff Mark Meadows, who ceased cooperating with the panel.

Bannon was later indicted by a federal grand jury and is awaiting prosecution by the Justice Department. The Justice Department has not taken any action against Meadows.

Other witnesses who are still close to the former president — and several who were in the White House that day — have declined to answer the committee's questions. □

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California may empower citizens to sue over illegal firearms

By **DON THOMPSON**

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)

— For all California's nation-leading attempts to regulate firearms, the state has not found a way to deter those happy to skirt the laws with stolen or homemade and increasingly prevalent "ghost" guns. In just two recent examples, police say the first weapon recovered after gunmen killed six people and wounded 12 in downtown Sacramento early Sunday had been stolen and converted to being capable of automatic gunfire. The homemade assault weapon a father used a month ago and a few miles away to kill his three daughters, their chaperone and then himself was unregistered.

"People argue that we've got the toughest gun laws in the nation. But they're clearly not tough enough," Democratic state Sen. Robert Hertzberg said Monday. The latest mass shooting in a nightclub area blocks from the state Capitol renewed calls for tougher firearms laws from President Joe Biden. Biden called for Congress to take many of the steps nationwide that California already has in place — imposing background checks, banning assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, and outlawing ghost guns.



A person passes a memorial near the location of a mass shooting in Sacramento, Calif., Monday, April 4, 2022.

The most populous state will consider an innovative new approach Tuesday when Hertzberg, at the urging of Gov. Gavin Newsom, expects to take the first step to advance a bill allowing private citizens to sue anyone who distributes illegal assault weapons, parts that can be used to build weapons, guns without serial numbers, or .50 caliber rifles. The penalty: at least \$10,000 in civil damages for each weapon, plus attorneys fees.

But the bill would not bar anyone from possessing or using the weapons, though

they're illegal under other laws. And it would not include stolen weapons unless they are otherwise made illegal, for instance by filing off the serial number.

"It's going to have hopefully a chilling effect on folks with ghost guns or assault weapons," Hertzberg said. "You've got to have millions of eyeballs looking for these guns. If someone flashes one, talks about it, all of a sudden there's an incentive among the public in a way that there's never been before to try to pull them off the street."

Yet, Hertzberg's bill is patterned after a similar Texas law allowing citizens to go after those who provide or assist in providing abortions. And even if it becomes law, Hertzberg's bill will automatically be invalidated if the Texas law is eventually ruled unconstitutional.

"This is tit for tat political gamesmanship, which is the worst reason to be passing some kind of a bill," said Chuck Michel, president of the California Rifle and Pistol Association and an attorney who wrote a book about California's complicated gun laws. "You're

going to deputize a bunch of amateurs — non-lawyers, non-cops — to judge a neighbor's actions and then give them the right to drag them into court over it." Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, which generally favors firearms restrictions, hasn't taken a position on the bill. The center's state policy director, attorney Ari Freilich, said it "would essentially bring more enforcement oversight to some specific criminal laws in California." "It's not something that's really been tried before," Freilich said.

He wouldn't predict if it would be effective, but said the proposal has some "potential challenges." Among them is encouraging civil actions to punish crimes, and establishing "a bounty" to be collected by those who haven't been directly harmed.

His organization is backing other bills, including one that would make it easier for people to sue gun companies for liability in shootings that cause injuries or death. Two other bills also target firearm parts and guns without serial numbers, and those made with 3D printers.

Legislative analysts also raised concerns, including that California's bill might be seen as legitimizing Texas' approach. □

Associated Press



Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves speaks about the importance of his signing a teacher pay raise bill, Thursday, March 31, 2022, at Madison Central High School in Madison, Miss.

Associated Press

By **EMILY WAGSTER PETTUS**

Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Mississippi residents will pay

lower income taxes in coming years as the state enacts its largest-ever tax cut. Republican Gov. Tate

Mississippi governor signs state's largest income tax cut

Reeves on Tuesday signed a bill that will reduce the state income tax over four years, beginning in 2023.

Mississippi, one of the poorest states in the nation, has struggling rural hospitals and perpetually underfunded schools.

Supporters say a significant tax cut could spur economic growth and attract new residents to Mississippi, which was one of three states that lost population during the decade before the 2020 census. Opponents say reducing the income tax would mean less money for schools, health

care, roads and other services, especially hurting Mississippi's poor and working-class residents.

The Mississippi income tax accounts for 34% of state revenue. Wealthy people would see the biggest financial boost from eliminating the income tax, because they're the ones paying the most now. The poorest residents would see no benefit because they are already earning too little to pay state income tax. Starting next year, the 4% income tax bracket will be eliminated. The following three years, the 5% bracket

will be reduced to 4%. After the first year, the tax-free income levels will be \$18,300 for a single person and \$36,600 for a married couple, lawmakers said.

Mississippi has enjoyed robust tax collections the past several months, partly because of increased federal spending during the COVID-19 pandemic. Opponents of reducing the Mississippi income tax point to Republican-led Kansas, which enacted big tax cuts in 2012 and 2013 but repealed many of them in 2017 after large and persistent budget shortfalls. □

European Union proposes Russian coal ban in new sanctions

By SAMUEL PETREQUIN

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Union's executive branch proposed Tuesday a ban on coal imports from Russia in what would be the first EU sanctions targeting the country's lucrative energy industry over its war in Ukraine.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said the EU needed to increase the pressure on Russian President Vladimir Putin after what she described as "heinous crimes" carried out around Kyiv, with evidence that Russian troops may have deliberately killed Ukrainian civilians.

Von der Leyen said the ban on coal imports is worth 4 billion euros (\$4.4 billion) per year and that the EU has already started working on additional sanctions, including on oil imports.

She didn't mention natural gas, with consensus among the 27 EU countries on targeting the fuel used to generate electricity and heat homes difficult to secure amid opposition from gas-dependent members like Germany, the bloc's largest economy.

Until now, Europe had not been willing to target Rus-



A loaded dump truck passes an empty truck as it carries away coal at the Kedrovsky open-pit coal mine in Kemerovo, Russia, Tuesday, June 16, 2015.

Associated Press

sian energy over fears that it would plunge the European economy into recession. Europe's dependence on Russian oil, natural gas and coal means finding unanimity on energy measures is a tall order, but the recent reports of civilian killings have increased pressure for tougher EU sanctions.

The U.S. and United Kingdom previously announced they were cutting off Russian oil.

Individual EU countries

have announced efforts to draw down their energy reliance on Russia: Poland says it plans to block imports of coal and oil from the country, while Lithuania said it's no longer using Russian natural gas.

"To take a clear stand is not only crucial for us in Europe but also for the rest of the world," von der Leyen said. "A clear stand against Putin's war of choice.

A clear stand against the massacre of civilians. And

a clear stand against the violation of the fundamental principles of the world order."

Energy policy expert Simone Tagliapietra with the Bruegel think tank in Brussels said coal represented 20 million euros in revenue for Russia from Europe per day at current prices, compared with 850 million per day for oil and gas.

The coal ban "is important because it breaks the energy taboo," he said, but

is not "a game changer. ... Targeting coal for the moment is too prudent, it's too symbolic and the time for symbolic measures is gone."

"It's not with coal that Putin can get rich or sustain the funding of the war. The big flow of money is certainly oil and gas, not coal, and that's the issue."

The proposal still must be adopted unanimously by all 27 EU countries and is included among a new package of sanctions.

Other measures proposed by the EU's executive arm include sanctions on more individuals and four key Russian banks, among them VTB, the second-largest Russian bank.

"This will further weaken Russia's financial system."

The bloc also would ban Russian vessels and Russian-operated vessels from EU ports, with exceptions for essentials such as agricultural and food products, humanitarian aid and energy.

Further targeted export bans, worth 10 billion euros, in sectors covering quantum computers, advanced semiconductors, sensitive machinery and transportation equipment also were proposed. □

Darwin notebooks missing for 20 years returned to Cambridge

By JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Two of naturalist Charles Darwin's notebooks that were reported stolen from Cambridge University's library have been returned, two decades after they disappeared.

The university said Tuesday that the manuscripts were left in the library inside a pink gift bag, along with a note wishing the librarian a Happy Easter.

The notebooks, which include the 19th-century scientist's famous 1837 "Tree of Life" sketch, went missing in 2001 after being removed for photographing, though at the time staff believed they might have been misplaced. After searches of

the library's collection of 10 million books, maps and manuscripts failed to find them, they were reported



In this photo provided by Cambridge University Library on Tuesday, April 5, 2022, Dr Jessica Gardner looks at the Tree of Life Sketch in one of naturalist Charles Darwin's notebook which have recently been returned after going missing in 2001, in Cambridge, England.

Associated Press

stolen to police in October 2020.

Local detectives notified the global police organization Interpol and launched an international hunt for the notebooks, valued at millions of pounds (dollars). On March 9 the books reappeared, left in a public area of the building, outside the librarian's office, which is not covered by security cameras. The two notebooks were wrapped in clingfilm inside their archive box, and appeared undamaged. The accompanying note said: "Librarian Happy Easter X."

Darwin filled the notebooks with ideas shortly after returning from his voyage around the world on HMS Beagle, developing ideas

that would bloom into his landmark work on evolution, "On the Origin of Species."

The university's director of library services Jessica Gardner said her feeling of relief at the books' reappearance was "profound and almost impossible to adequately express."

"The notebooks can now retake their rightful place alongside the rest of the Darwin Archive at Cambridge, at the heart of the nation's cultural and scientific heritage, alongside the archives of Sir Isaac Newton and Professor Stephen Hawking," she said.

The notebooks are set to go on public display from July as part of a Darwin exhibition at the library. □

Indonesian principal sentenced to death for raping 13 girls

By ADI MARSIELA

Associated Press

BANDUNG, Indonesia (AP)

— An Indonesian high court granted an appeal from prosecutors and sentenced an Islamic boarding school principal to death for raping at least 13 students over five years and impregnating some of them.

Herry Wirawan had been convicted by a three-judge panel at Bandung District Court in February and sentenced to life in prison. He had been accused of raping girls between 11 and 14 years old from 2016 to 2021 at the school, hotels or rented apartments in the West Java city.

At least nine babies reportedly were born as a result of the rapes.

His case drew a public outcry as there were several victims over several years. Police said the victims were too fearful to tell anyone.

The Bandung High Court judges in their ruling Monday agreed with prosecutors' appeal for the death penalty and for Wirawan's assets to be seized.

"What he had done had caused trauma and suffering to the victims and their parents," said the ruling the court released on its web-



Herry Wirawan, center, the principal of a girls Islamic boarding school accused of raping his students, is escorted by security officers upon arrival for his sentencing hearing at a district court in Bandung, West Java, Indonesia, on Feb. 15, 2022.

site Tuesday. "The defendant had tarnished the reputation of Islamic boarding schools."

The lower court had ordered Indonesia's child protection ministry to pay \$23,200 in combined compensation requested by the victims and between \$600 and \$6,000 for medical and psychological treatment for each girl, instead of seizing Wirawan's assets.

But the high court ruled for his assets to be seized, including a foundation he owned, and auctioned to benefit the victims and their children.

The judges also ruled that nine children born to the victims should be handed over to the Children and Women Protection Agency with periodic evaluation "until the victims are mentally ready to care for their

children, and the situation allows for their children to be returned to the victims." The appeal court's judges denied prosecutors' request for chemical castration, saying someone sentenced to death or life imprisonment may not be subject to other punishments, other than the revocation of some rights.

Wirawan's lawyer, Ira Mambo, said she would advise

her client to appeal the sentence to the Supreme Court. They have seven days to do so before the court decision becomes final.

Wirawan pleaded guilty and apologized to his victims and their families during the trial.

West Java police began to investigate the case and arrested Wirawan last May when parents of a victim went to the police after their daughter returned home on a holiday and admitted she had just given birth.

The case didn't become public until November, when court proceedings began. Police said they waited to publicize it to prevent further psychological and social damage to the victims.

In January, President Joko Widodo said he was concerned about cases of sexual abuse in Islamic boarding schools and called on parliament to speed up deliberations on a bill on sexual violence.

Conservative lawmakers and Islamic groups want the bill to include prohibitions on extramarital sex and homosexual relations. □

Associated Press

Kuwait's government resigns as political crisis intensifies

By ISABEL DEBRE

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)

— Kuwait's government resigned on Tuesday, just months after its formation, opening up new uncertainty as the tiny country grapples with a worsening political crisis that has blocked critical

economic and social reforms. Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al Hamad Al Sabah submitted the cabinet's resignation to the crown prince, state-run KUNA news agency reported, ahead of a no-confidence vote in Parliament later this week that sought to remove him from

office. It marks Kuwait's third collective government resignation in the past year and a half. A host of new faces, including some picks to appease opposition blocs, had been appointed to ministerial posts as recently as December, with their resignation now reflecting their failure to make reforms.

Opposition has been mounting against Sheikh Sabah. Angry lawmakers hauled him in for extensive interrogations last week over his alleged corruption and mismanagement. They publicly declared him "unsuitable" and called for a new prime minister to tackle the country's problems and secure badly needed reforms. Cabinet's resignation comes after the de-

fense and interior ministers submitted their resignations earlier this year. Exasperated, the two senior ministers decried their inability to make anything happen in oil-rich Kuwait because of Parliament's rowdy opposition. Lawmakers increasingly in recent months have expressed their political frustrations and mistrust by questioning various unpopular ministers and stalling major projects.

Although soaring oil prices amid Russia's war in Ukraine have recently created a windfall for Kuwait, they've also served as a reminder of the nation's utter dependence on oil revenues and need to diversify. Even if the International Monetary Fund now expects Kuwait to run a budget surplus af-

ter years in the red and see its gross domestic product increase by 2.7%, it remains politically stuck.

Years of low oil prices, coupled with the coronavirus pandemic, pushed the country's account deficit to 16.6% of its GDP last year. As financial stress worsened, the government couldn't draw from Kuwait's flush sovereign wealth fund or issue debt because lawmakers have blocked a public debt law.

The parliament, a rarity in the autocratic region of Persian Gulf sheikhdoms, is empowered to pass and block laws, question ministers and submit no-confidence votes against senior officials. However, final authority rests with the ruling emir. □



Lawmakers attend a session of Kuwait's National Assembly, in Kuwait City, Feb. 8, 2022.

Associated Press

West Africa has worst food crisis in decade, aid groups say

By CARLEY PETESCH

Associated Press

DAKAR, Senegal (AP) —

West Africa is facing its worst food crisis in a decade due to increasing conflicts, droughts, floods and the war in Ukraine, nearly a dozen international organizations said in a report Tuesday. The number of West Africans needing emergency food assistance has nearly quadrupled from 7 million in 2015 to 27 million this year in nations including Burkina Faso, Niger, Chad, Mali and Nigeria, where thousands have also been displaced because of rising Islamic extremist violence, the report said. That number could jump to 38 million by June if action isn't taken soon to help people in the Sahel, the sweeping region south of the Sahara Desert, the groups warned.

"Cereal production in some parts of the Sahel has dropped by about a third compared to last year. Family food supplies



Young girls stand in a field of millet outside the remote village of Hawkantaki, Niger, July 19, 2012. Associated Press

are running out. Drought, floods, conflict, and the economic impacts of COVID-19 have forced millions of people off their land, pushing them to the brink" according to Assalama Dawalack Sidi, Oxfam's regional director for West

and Central Africa. Children are suffering deeply, with estimates by the United Nations saying that some 6.3 million children 5 years and under will be acutely malnourished this year. Young girls will also face the brunt of

the problem, being forced into early marriage or facing gender-based violence as food becomes scarcer, the 11 international organizations said. Drought and poor rainfall distribution have reduced the food sources in many communities in the central Sahel region, the report said. Food prices have increased by

up to 30% in West Africa, it said. Global prices have risen as trade has been interrupted by the war in Ukraine, according to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization. Wheat availability will also be greatly affected in six West African countries that import at least 30% of their wheat from Russia and Ukraine, it said. The crisis in Europe is also resulting in funding cuts to aid in Africa and \$4 billion is needed to provide adequate support to the continent, the report said. "Ukraine is receiving the right level of solidarity and care, this level should be the standard for responses to all crises, everywhere else," said Moumouni Kinda, director-general of ALIMA. The appeal comes before a conference on the Sahel on Wednesday which Oxfam's Sidi said will be "a unique opportunity to mobilize the necessary emergency food and nutrition assistance and to prove that the lives of people in Africa are not worth less than those in Europe." □

Peru imposes curfew to quell protests over rising prices

By FRANKLIN BRICEÑO

Associated Press

LIMA, Peru (AP) — Peru's capital city and main port were under a tight curfew on Tuesday decreed by President Pedro Castillo in response to sometimes violent protests over rising prices of fuel and food. Major highways and street markets appeared almost deserted, with troops joining police in the streets under terms of a state of emergency that restricts rights to movement and gatherings and against arbitrary searches.

Castillo announced the curfew, which resembled the tightest lockdowns of the COVID-19 pandemic, shortly before midnight. The decree exempted essential services such as food markets, pharmacies, clinics and trash collection. But there was no bus service.

"It's a shame. We're experiencing a terrible eco-



Drivers wait on the Central Highway in traffic created by truckers and bus drivers blocking the road in Huaycan on the outskirts of Lima, Peru, Monday, April 4, 2022.

Associated Press

nomic situation, brother," said Juan Gutiérrez, a 45-year-old father of four who had been waiting in vain for a bus for more than an hour so he could get to a clothing workshop where he is paid by the piece. "Do you know what it means to lose a day? We have to work to eat," he added.

Protests over the past

week had led to four deaths, highway blockades, the burning of toll stations and small-scale looting.

Castillo said the disturbances had caused "worry among workers, mothers and the population in general" and imposed the curfew to "reestablish peace and internal order." □

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Aruba Marriott thanks its heroes Antonio Ras and Tisha Powell for saving the life of a guest


Palm Beach - Training, teamwork and courage were the formula that helped save the life of a guest on Tuesday night, the 23rd of March, when a guest had a stroke and did not have any pulse.

2 associates of the department of Loss Prevention of Aruba Marriott Resort reacted immediately to help save the life of this guest while the ambulance was on its way to the hotel.

At about 23:58 on the 23rd of March, the security office received an emergency phone call to tend to a guest who was in his room with no pulse. Immediately the two associates

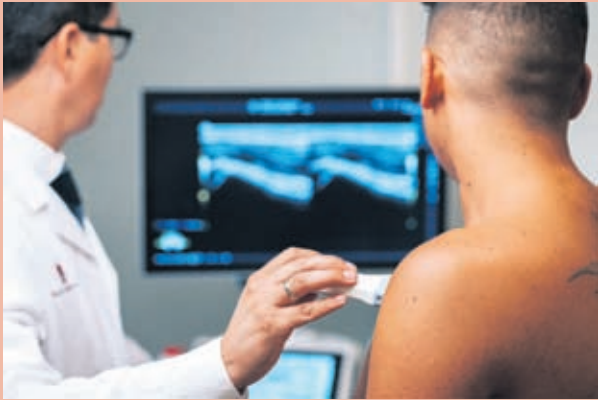
of Loss Prevention, Antonio Ras who is Loss Prevention Supervisor and Loss Prevention Officer Tisha Powell went to the room to offer their assistance. They started with CPR immediately and while they were performing the CPR, they followed the instructions of the Automated External Defibrillator (AED), which was to give shock to the guest. After getting to a weak pulse, they kept trying and after a few tries, they were able to get a stronger pulse, which was held stable until the team of paramedics and ambulance arrived to the scene and took the guest to the hospital.

“All members of the team of Loss Prevention has training and certification in CPR, the use of the AED machine and other emergency procedures, and practice these skills regularly in order to be prepared at all and any given time,” Ruthline Theysen, Complex Director of Human Resources expressed, adding that “we are extremely proud and thankful to our heroes Antonio Ras and Tisha Powell, who acted immediately and applied all that they have learned with courage and a strong teamwork. We thank them heartily on behalf of management and all employees from Aruba Marriott for their heroic act that is surely an inspiration.”



The guest has recovered and together with their partner expressed gratitude to Antonio, Tisha and the team of Aruba Marriott Resort with a lot of emotion and happiness to be alive, as well as an immense gratitude to have received another chance to be alive.

Aruba Marriott nominated Antonio Ras and Tisha Powell to receive one of the most prestigious recognitions of Marriott International, “The Chairman’s Award”, which is to honor the Marriott associates around the world who saved a life. □



Imagine yourself arriving on the beautiful island of Aruba. You’ve scheduled your days with exciting activities or to relax by the beach or pool. Of course, the least you would expect is to get sick or become in need of medical assistance. Because honestly, who does that while on vacation?

But when that happens, you need to know who and where to visit. So, the first step is to assess your medical need and its urgency. At Urgent Care Aruba, we offer medical assistance for non-life-threatening illnesses and injuries. We accept walk-ins from Monday to Friday from 8 am to 8 pm, Saturday from 8 am to 4 pm, Sunday/Holiday from 10 am to 2 pm. Therefore, receive a better cost value than the Emergency Room as the alternative option. Other services offered at the Urgent Care Aruba is X-Ray (Without Appointment), Ultrasound

Urgent Care vs. Emergency Room: Where should you go?

(With Appointment), and Gynecology Services (With Appointment). Visit us to assess your symptoms, and we'll provide you with a proper diagnosis and treatment since we will also provide you with a prescription if deemed necessary. Our mission is to have you back on your vacation; that is why we offer quick, reliable, and efficient medical service.

Please view our comparison information chart: Urgent Care vs. Emergency Room.

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URGENT CARE vs EMERGENCY ROOM

Which one should you go?

The care you need, when you need it.

| Urgent Care Aruba | VS | Emergency Department |
|--|----|--|
| <p>If you don't feel well and are suffering from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Colds/Flu/Fever/Cough Sore throat Ear aches Sprains/Strains/Simple fractures Scrapes/Cuts Minor burns Rashes without fever, like poison ivy/insect bites Nausea Urinary tract infections Back pain | VS | <p>If your symptoms are severe life threatening or come on suddenly such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chest pain call 911 Shortness of breath call 911 Fainting/ Loss of consciousness/ change in vision Change in mental state Weakness on one side/ facial droop, call 911 garbled speech Deep cuts/ Bleeding that won't stop Sudden, severe pain anywhere in the body High fever/ Fever with rash Seizures Severe or repeated vomiting Serious burns |

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Visual Voices Photography Exhibition at San Nicolas

SAN NICOLAS - Visual Voices Photography is a six-week project that originated in the afterschool program known as Y's CARE of the YMCA of Aruba.

This project started in 2020 at the YMCA in San Nicolas, but, unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, had been put on hold for two years. Thankfully, the project was reactivated

by the enthusiastic efforts of the Y's CARE Supervisor, Ms. Inki Geerman, in February 2022. This time, a group of eight participants varying between the ages of ten through twelve years, were eager to delve into something new and different.

At the end of the project, a total of twenty-four photographs were chosen to be

displayed in the exhibition, which showcases the participants' exploration of their community through the viewfinder. Under the direction of renown Canadian photographer, Randy Bullerwell, the students learned the technical aspects of photography as they developed their own perspective and creative style.

A special thank you to Tito Bolivar, Gallery Director at the Artis Aruba Gallery, for hosting this exhibition as we celebrate the talents of our young artists. The exhibition will be showcased from April 9th to April 23rd. Come and enjoy the images of this talented group of students as they share their inspiration behind the images they have captured! □



Lisa Dammerman Promoted to Resort Experience Manager at the Hilton

PALM BEACH - Lisa Dammerman has been the resort's Bridal Specialist for 13 years, the ultimate guru of all weddings on the island.

She regularly made the difference for couples about to tie the knot in the tropics. Her specialty? Stress reduction, by working with vendors and navigating the decor and catering fields effortlessly to produce seamless, true dream weddings, renewals, engagements and anniversary celebrations in Aruba.

Lisa has been a Bridal Specialist since June 1st, 2009, and was promoted to Resort Experience Manager, effective December 16th, 2021. Her new position finds her in charge of the resort activities, the oceanfront eforea spa, the two lovely resort pools zero entry pools, and the fantastic beach, making sure the guest experience is exceptionally filled with long-lasting memories

Reflecting on her time as a bridal specialist Lisa reports that the Hilton was announced the winner of the 2020 WeddingWire Couples' Choice Awards®, an accolade earned annually by top wedding professionals across the world. Her team had won that award three years in a row, rated in quality, service, responsiveness, and professionalism, as reviewed by couples on WeddingWire.

In July 2020, immediately post-lockdown, the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Re-



sort & Casino hosted its first wedding, since reopening that year, on July 9th. The overjoyed Lisa shares that guests never gave up on Aruba and her team helped fulfill their dreams, to get married here. Aruba is a fantastic place for love to manifest, she adds.

Lisa is looking forward to applying her people skills in her new playground, the spa, pool and beach, and offer the same stress free experience to her guests, to deliver a true dream vacation on the island. □



Article by Etnia Nativa

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Island's birds

Episode CXLVIII- 148

Etnia Nativa's goal is to create cultural awareness, promote education and safeguard our heritage by guiding our readers to become the next and new guardians of our island Aruba.

In this episode we want to raise awareness and the importance of birds as an integral part of our culture and the risk that some of them are in risk of extinction on our island. Many of these feather creatures delight us with their colors and others with their song, but in reality they have a much greater importance birds in general have in human societies, with uses and values that vary over time and space. They are used as food, decoration, amulets, pets, medicine, in rituals, falconry, as fish catcher, for their feather, art and recreation.

If the birds were to disappear, so do the economically valuable services they provide. Birds pollinate flowers, disperse seeds, and help eliminate rodents, insects, weed seeds, and other parasites. Birds are very important for our ecosystem since they also act as dispersal agents, in addition to pollination, for the simple fact of having a frugivorous diet. That is to say, birds have adapted organisms so that they can eat and process seeds, which in many occasions are the part main of their diet.

The yellow warbler

One of the endangered species is or Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*) known as "Parha di Misa" or church bird in Papiamentu, sometimes misnamed the wild canary, which breeds from Alaska and Newfoundland to the West Indies, Peru, and the Galapagos Islands; it is 13 cm (5 inches) long, and the males have faintly red-streaked underparts. Being a very confident bird it is easily spotted by its bright yellow colour when it scurries through the bushes and the few mangrove forest paths that are still around. The male has brown stripes on the breast and along the sides and wears a brown cap. It is said that the resemblance of its cap with the



tonsure of the friars, gave the bird its Papiamentu name. "church bird". The female is not so brightly coloured and lacks the brown stripes and the cap. The thin bill indicates clearly the insectivorous nature of this bird. It is always busy looking for bugs hiding in the bushes. Often a branch is systematically stripped of its insects.

Another visitor to our island is the Osprey, (*Pandion haliaetus*) known in our language Papiamentu as "Teishi or Gabilan piscado", also called sea hawk, river hawk, and fish hawk, is a diurnal, fish-eating bird of prey with a cosmopolitan range. It is a large raptor reaching more than 60 cm in length and 180 cm across the wings. It is brown on the upperparts and predominantly greyish on the head and underparts.

Osprey

Virtually always present along our reefs. Inhabits lagoons behind reef walls and inland bays. Appears to be territorial, but often two and sometimes three birds have been seen rather close together, uttering their plaintive calls like "weep-weep". Regular perching and sleeping places include factory towers and electric standards, sometimes close to human

activity. Hunts over quiet plunging down, feet first, usually fully submerging in a splash of water, and if successful, coming clear of the water with elaborate wing beats and a fish in one of its talons. Prey is consumed on regular perching places on a bare branch of mangrove tree or other high and exposed site on poles, isolated boulders of cliff coast, sometimes on the ground among the coral shingle of reef walls.

Saffron finch

As there are many other birds to present to you, in this episode we will end by sharing something about the well-known Saffron Finch (*Sicalis flaveola*). This bird is an example of some of the birds introduced to our island by man. The saffron finch is a tanager from South America that is common in open and semi-open areas in lowlands outside the Amazon Basin. The male is bright yellow with an orange crown which distinguishes it from most other yellow finches. The females are more difficult to identify and are usually just a slightly duller version of the male. Typically nesting in cavities, the saffron finch makes use of bamboo branches and under house roofs - this species is tolerant of human proximity, appearing at suburban areas and frequenting bird tables.

If you love Aruba its origins and its cultural heritage, be part of the exclusive visitors of this cozy home-atelier called "Etnia Nativa". This private residential houses collections of native art, archaeological artifacts and historic furniture, while the facilities themselves are the result of the transformation of recycled materials.

Meet the acclaimed columnist at home! Book your visit WhatsApp + 297 592 2702- or mail: etnianativa03@gmail.com. ☐



Millennial Money: Take your money to the next level

By **SARA RATHNER**
of **NerdWallet**

Millennials may still feel quite young (despite those pesky gray hairs and less-than-fine lines), but in so many ways, we have adulted. So it's time for our money management to grow up a bit, too.

Your financial to-do list is small but mighty in your 20s. Setting up automatic transfers to a high-yield savings account, contributing enough to your 401(k) to get the full employer match and paying down high-interest debt can take you quite far.

Now, you can do more to propel yourself to financial success in your 40s and beyond.

MAKE USE OF A HIGHER CREDIT SCORE

You don't have to treat a high credit score like a precious work of art. Good credit can qualify you for better borrowing terms, so put that to work.

Try to cut back on the cost of borrowing. "In terms of bang for your buck, refinancing is an important thing you should be doing," says Priya Malani, founder and CEO of Stash Wealth, a financial advisory firm in Charlotte, North Carolina. "If you can move even a quarter of a percent on a really large mortgage, that's going to save you tens of thousands of dol-



In this June 15, 2018, file photo, twenty dollar bills are counted in North Andover, Mass.

Associated Press

lars."

Get a better deal on high-interest credit card debt. If your financial situation has improved, you may qualify for a balance transfer credit card offering a year or more at 0% interest.

If you don't have credit card debt, but you're still using that barebones card you got at 21, switch to a card that earns cash back or travel rewards. However, leave that old credit card open and use it once in a while to keep it active. (The average age of your accounts is a factor in your credit score, and the older, the better.)

MATCH INVESTMENTS TO A VARIETY OF GOALS

Here are two ways you can up the ante on your investing. First, if your employer offers a retirement plan with a match, and you've been

contributing just enough to get that match, consider contributing more. A rule of thumb is to save 10% to 15% of your pretax income toward retirement.

Next, plot out your intermediate-term goals for the next five to 15 years. You can invest for these goals using other kinds of accounts, such as taxable brokerage accounts and 529s, to help fund early retirement, save for your child's education or plan for another large expense. Money for short-term goals (within five years or less) shouldn't be invested. Instead, a high-yield savings account is a more appropriate place to hold that money until you need it.

THINK ABOUT HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR CAREER — AND YOUR LIFE

If you spent the start of your

career rising and grinding, you likely had little energy to think about what kind of work (and life) would actually bring you the most joy. When you're financially stable and advancing in your career, you can begin to think about what comes next for you.

Shehara L. Wooten, certified financial planner and founder of Your Story Financial, a financial advisory firm in Dallas, says you don't need to wait for retirement to do the things you truly enjoy. "You may even want to, if you've planned properly, take some time off," she says. "If that's not something you're able to do, take some time to find out how you can get paid more, how you can really be appreciated for the work that you do."

Wooten also recommends seeking the help of a financial advisor to discuss what kind of lifestyle you want to have in retirement and the savings you need to accumulate to get there. You may have a skill set that can translate to a higher-paying career, which will help you accomplish your goals more quickly.

PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR LOVED ONES

What worked when you were 25 and single isn't going to cut it when you're 35 with two kids and a mortgage. Here are some ways

to protect your family:

— **INSURANCE:** Malani recommends a term life insurance plan if you own a home with someone else, someone is dependent on you for support or you have a co-signer on one of your loans.

— **ESTATE PLANNING:** Talk to an estate attorney about crafting a will, naming guardians for your kids, appointing a medical power of attorney and other scary-yet-necessary details.

— **UPDATE BENEFICIARIES:** Revisit who you listed as your beneficiaries on your bank and investment accounts. If that information is outdated and you were to pass away, your money won't go to the right person.

GIVE TO OTHERS

As your salary grows, it becomes easier to meet your needs and still have money left over each month. Some of that money can be budgeted toward meaningful causes. Estate planning can also help you map out how you'd like to donate money or valuable possessions to charity.

"I like to have people write out their story and go to the end of their life," Wooten says. "What do you want that to look like? What do you want people to say about you? What do you want your legacy to entail?" □

U.K. plans rules for some cryptocurrencies amid global effort

By **KELVIN CHAN**
AP Business Writer

LONDON (AP) — Britain has unveiled plans to regulate some cryptocurrencies as part of a broader plan to become a global hub for digital payments, coming as authorities in the U.S. and Europe are racing to draw up rules for crypto. Cryptocurrencies have exploded in popularity, leaving officials worldwide scrambling to figure out how to regulate them amid fears they could threaten financial stability and hurt consumers.

"The U.K. is open for busi-

ness — open for crypto businesses," John Glen, economic secretary to the Treasury, said in a speech Monday.

Treasury chief Rishi Sunak also has asked the Royal Mint to create a digital collectible known as an NFT as an "emblem of the forward-looking approach the U.K. is determined to take," Glen said.

Crypto proponents say the technology will make payments faster, easier and more transparent, while skeptics worry it could be used for illegal activity like money laundering and

contribute to carbon emissions because of the heavy computing power needed to process transactions.

Last month, the United States stepped up government oversight of cryptocurrency while European Union lawmakers agreed on draft rules for cryptoassets.

Glen said the government plans to update laws on payments to include a type of cryptocurrency called stablecoins to encourage issuers and service providers to operate and grow in the U.K. Stablecoins are usually tied to the dollar or



An advertisement for Bitcoin cryptocurrency is displayed on a street in Hong Kong, Thursday, Feb. 17, 2022.

Associated Press

a commodity such as gold, making them a lot less volatile than normal cryptocurrencies like bitcoin, which can swing wildly in value. "This will also enable con-

sumers to use stablecoin payment services with confidence," Glen said, without specifying which stablecoins would be regulated. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 41 Clutter

1 Glided

5 Gush forth

9 Game

official

11 Martin or

Carell

12 "Sea-

scape"

playwright

13 Carried

14 Tell tales

15 Jeté

action

17 Car option

19 Casual

shirt

20 Girder

material

21 Stop

signal

22 Blazing

24 Light

touch

26 Blood

lines

29 Fragrant

tree

30 Tendency

32 Out in

front

34 Dove call

35 Noble gas

36 Love affair

38 Witch

39 Nick of

"Affliction"

40 Lane's

co-worker

1 Barn

section

2 Easter

symbols

3 Pooped

pro-

nounce-

ment

4 Ruby of

films

5 Cut off

6 Small

7 Made

level

8 Doorstop

shape

10 Charit-

able

aid

11 Antlered

animal

16 Pep up

Others"

18 Pants part

28 Pig parts

21 Rider's

29 Singer

30 Script unit

31 Skirt

33 Parent's

warning

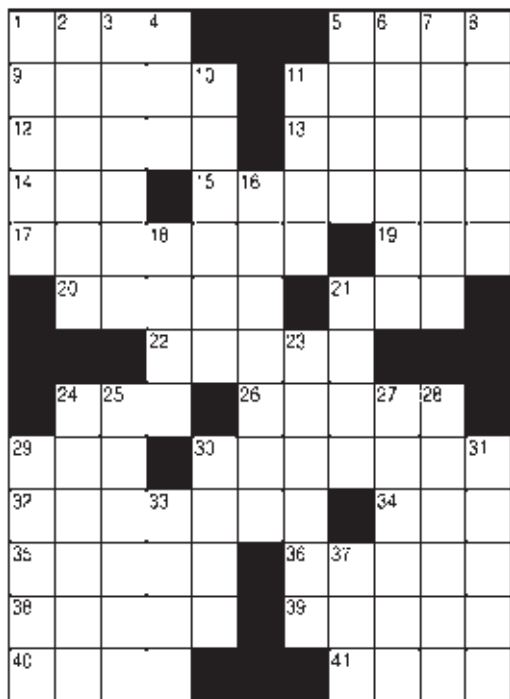
25 Region of

Spain

37 May

honoree

Yesterday's answer



AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

4-6 CRYPTOQUOTE

RSKE INBKNEK ISNRI ANM

RSN PSKA DYK. VKOLKFK

PSKB PSK XLYIP PLBK.

— BDAD DETKONM

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: BEHAVE TOWARD EVERYONE AS IF RECEIVING A GREAT GUEST. — CONFUCIUS

Nevada toad declared endangered at site of geothermal plant



In this photo provided by the Nevada Department of Wildlife, a Dixie Valley toad sits atop grass in Dixie Valley, Nev., on April 6, 2009.

Associated Press

By SCOTT SONNER
Associated Press

RENO, Nev. (AP) — In a rare emergency move, the U.S. government temporarily declared a northern Nevada toad endangered Monday, saying a geothermal power plant in the works could result in its extinction. The Fish and Wildlife Service announced it is formally proposing a rule to list the Dixie Valley toad as an endangered species subject to 60 days of public comment under the Endangered Species Act's normal rulemaking process. But it said the emergency listing goes into effect immediately and will continue for eight months while more permanent protections are considered for the toad at the only place it is known to exist in the world. It marks only the second time in 20 years the service has listed a species as endangered on an emergency basis. "Protecting small population species like this ensures the continued biodiversity necessary to maintain climate resilient landscapes in one of the driest states in the country," the agency said.

It wasn't immediately clear how the toad's listing might affect construction of the power plant about 100 miles (160 kilometers) east of Reno. Conservationists and tribal members are trying to block the project in a lawsuit currently before the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. The dispute is among a growing number of conflicts over wildlife protection and tribal rights on federal lands that the Biden administration faces as it pursues its agenda to combat climate change by replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy.

Officials for Reno-based Ormat Technologies Inc., which broke ground on the power plant last month, have said they don't believe a listing would impact the project because the company spent six years developing a mitigation plan to offset any potential environmental impacts. "Ormat long recognized the importance of conserving the Dixie Valley toad, regardless of its legal status," Ormat Vice President Paul Thomsen said Monday in an email to The Associated Press. □

Casa del Mar 2BR/2B

Week 2/1113 (17k);
Week 5/1315 (19k);
Week 8/1113 (18k);
Week 8/1409 (18k);
Week 9/1218 (16k);
Week 10/1207 (16k);
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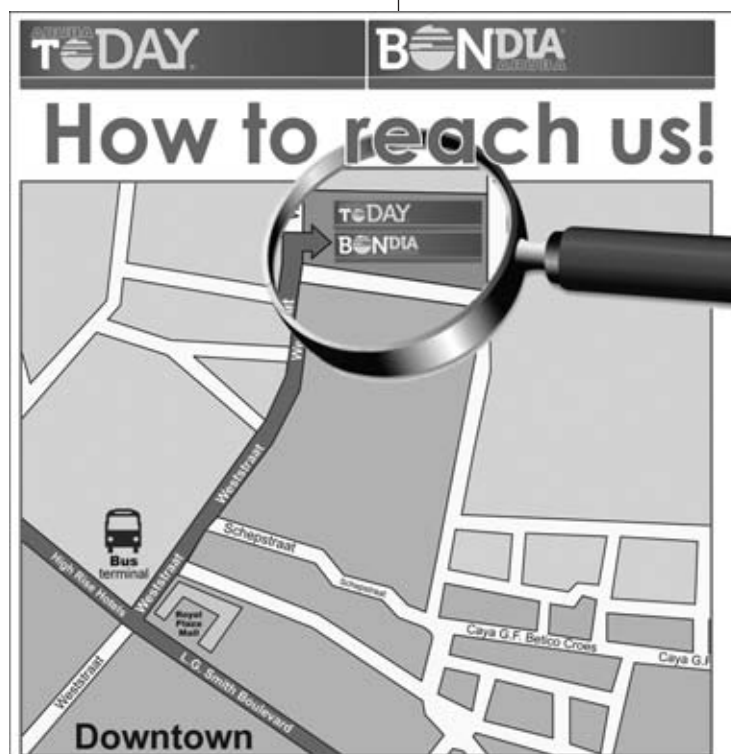
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Camila Alves McConaughey takes on picky eaters, with love

By **MARK KENNEDY**

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Camila Alves McConaughey has co-written a new children's book about a bunch of picky eaters. Only in this case, the picky eaters aren't the children.

"Just Try One Bite" (Penguin Random House) follows three kids as they try to get their parents to put down the ice cream, cake and chicken fried steak and embrace healthy, whole foods. Actually, all the kids want is for the adults to take a single bite of anything healthy.

"It's not about preaching being perfect. I know I'm not. I know my household is not. We've got a ways to go," says the model and entrepreneur. "It's about making small changes."

The rhyming book — co-written with Adam Mansbach and illustrated by Mike Boldt — features well-meaning kids confronting their junk-food-loving parents (who somewhat resemble Alves and her husband, actor Matthew McConaughey) about giving kale a chance, a role reversal with plenty of humor. "Oh Papa, oh Mama, please be open-minded. You can't say kale's gross if you won't even try it," they plead in the book. "A well-balanced dinner really ought to be more than some French fries you found in your car on the floor."

ADAM MANSBACH & CAMILA ALVES McCONAUGHEY



This book cover image released by Dial Books for Young Readers shows "Just Try One Bite," a children's book by Adam Mansbach and Camila Alves McConaughey, illustrated by Mike Boldt.

Associated Press

A breakthrough occurs when the parents finally eat some cauliflower — and like it. That opens the door for yams, linguini with clams and, as a reward, donut holes. Yes, treats are allowed, in moderation.

"One of the most important conversations to have about doing better for yourself is early on," says Alves from her home in Texas. "If

you start giving kids the understanding and the knowledge, all of a sudden you start seeing them feel empowered and make better decisions on their own."

Alves — mother to Levi, 13, Vida, 12, and Livingston, 9 — is candid about the challenges parents face with picky eaters, noting that siblings go through different stages at different

times. Her youngest recently would only eat beans, prompting her to call the doctor.

Boldt filled the book with big movements and expressive faces, saying he was paying homage to Dr. Seuss' "The Cat in the Hat," which also has kids taking charge and creating a bit of chaos. "It's much easier to draw something when the words are incredibly descriptive and visual, because that feeds your imagination," he says.

He also has three children but, thankfully, they aren't that picky. "They actually like a lot of vegetables and foods that I wasn't sure they were going to," he says with a laugh. "Stuff I didn't like when I was a kid."

Alves has tips for parents of picky eaters beyond the classic one of making plates more fun by arranging the food into faces. One way she keeps the household happy is by sticking to good dietary rules all week and then having free-for-all-Friday, when everyone can eat what they want.

She also endorses letting each child choose a "throw-up vegetable" — one item they can skip as long as they try all the others. (Her throw-up veggie would be okra, a lifelong slimy enemy, she says.) Another tip: Encourage children to help cook in the kitchen to learn about ingredients.

"My daughter would say, 'I really don't like onions.' And then once I'll get her to cook this meat sauce with me, she'll say, 'Oh, I can't eat this. You put onions on it.' I'll say, 'I put onions on this every time I cook it.'"

The Brazilian-born Alves grew up on a farm and moved to Los Angeles as a teenager.

"The relationship with food and what it came from — from seed to table — was very vivid for me growing up," she says.

She tries to replicate what she grew up with by adding lots of colors to her plates — beets, beans, hearts of palm, tomatoes, roots and legumes. She prepares them simply, puts them in the middle of the table, and lets her kids and mother-in-law graze.

While she was growing up, her family never talked about moderating sugar, something she still struggles with. Her husband's family did talk about it, and she says he has a healthier relationship with sweets and dessert.

Alves advocates making small changes and embracing the notion that no one's perfect. She admits her kids have busted her on her chocolate addiction, and she's moving toward less sweet, darker versions. "No matter what stage you're in, there's always room to do a little bit better." □



Actor and animal rights activist Doris Day poses for photos after receiving the Cecil B. DeMille Award she was presented with at the annual Golden Globe Awards ceremony in Los Angeles on Jan. 28, 1989.

Associated Press

Doris Day's animal charity honors late star with fundraiser

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The 100th anniversary of Doris Day's birthday is being recognized with a social-media fundraiser honoring her passion for animals. The Doris Day Animal Foundation, a charity that supports animal welfare programs nationwide, is asking "animal lovers" everywhere to donate and celebrate her legacy. The foundation announced a goal of \$100,000 in donations, which it said it would match with funds to benefit animals affected

by the war in Ukraine. Day, who was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, on April 3, 1922, created the nonprofit group, originally known as the Doris Day Pet Foundation, in 1978. She died in May 2019 at age 97. A singer and actor best known for 1950s romantic comedies including "Pillow Talk" and "Lover Come Back," Day also starred in dramas, including Alfred Hitchcock's "The Man Who Knew Too Much." In a statement, the foundation asked people

to post photos and videos with the hashtag #Doris-Day100 that show how the "legacy of Doris and her enduring passion for animal welfare" is being carried on. A video compilation of celebrity tributes to Day's animal advocacy includes a newly recorded message from Kaley Cuoco, who's set to star as Day in a limited series. Those featured in the video include Betty White, another prominent animal welfare booster, who died last December. □

Olympic gold medalist Sunisa Lee banking more NCAA success

By JOHN ZENOR

AP Sports Writer

AUBURN, Ala. (AP) — Sunisa Lee needed a respite from the exhausting, all-consuming world of elite gymnastics.

She wanted to go to school, and the ability now for college athletes to make money off name, image and likeness deals made it an easy call.

The Olympic all-around champion who has her sights set on defending her title in Paris in 2024 has capitalized on her still-newfound fame with appearances on "Dancing with the Stars" among other endeavors. The 19-year-old is hardly a normal college freshman.

"Even without the NIL, I knew I wanted to go to college anyway just because I had to come find my love for the sport again," Lee said. "I had to get out of the elite world just because it is so different. This is so much more fun, and having the team be so supportive."

The new NIL rules allowed her to parlay her success in Tokyo last summer into financial security without sacrificing the college experience and education. And without spending all day holed up in the gym.

Lee has helped lead the Tigers to the NCAA championships, from April 14-16 in Fort Worth, Texas, for the first time since 2016. She scored her fifth 10 of the season in the regional at



Auburn gymnast Sunisa Lee gathers with teammates before performing at a meet at the University of Michigan, Saturday, March 12, 2022, in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Neville Arena, this one on the balance beam to help Auburn edge Kentucky.

The All-American came in ranked first nationally in the uneven bars — where she won bronze in Tokyo — tied for first on the balance beam and second in the all-around.

"I think if the Olympics were a year earlier and this happened, she couldn't make that decision" to attend college, said Auburn coach Jeff Graba, whose twin brother Jess has been Lee's longtime personal coach.

While Lee is competing for NCAA titles, she also feels

she has much to prove. Lee's all-around gold came after favorite Simone Biles withdrew from the competition citing mental health concerns. Lee said she doesn't think she's reached her full potential yet and that is indeed gold medal-worthy.

"I think it's something I just want to prove to myself, because I think I have a lot of doubters," said Lee, a Hmong American who is from Minnesota. "And prove it to everybody else but more importantly to myself."

"I don't want to look back and be like, I could have

done so much more. I want to look back and know I gave it everything I had and if I didn't succeed, I didn't. But I gave it my all." Lee has a leotard line with GK Elite and a clothing line with Pretty Little Thing., which she tracks while living in a dormitory like other Auburn freshmen with roommate/teammate Sara Hubbard. She has splurged on a car and her first designer bag but mostly fears spending too much now and not having enough later.

"I'm so scared to actually use my money," Lee said. "I'm so cautious with it because I have to be."

She is still taking online courses and spent the fall in Los Angeles for the dancing competition show before officially joining the team in Auburn in December. Lee feels like appearing on "Dancing With the Stars" — she made the semifinals with partner Sasha Farber — makes her "more of an exciting person."

"It just makes it interesting," Lee said. "It's really cool that I'm getting to do all this at such a young age. But then I'm scared. When I get older, what am I going to do then? Because if I do everything now, what am I going to do in the future?"

"But I don't know, it's really exciting."

Lee has also dealt with the sudden fame that comes with being an Olympic champion. She can't just pop into the grocery store or have a quiet dinner out. She even stopped going to Auburn basketball games. It's all a part of the new normal for a teenager who isn't yet fully accustomed to the spotlight but is eager not to ever come off as standoffish.

"It's really hard, because even grabbing food, people come up to her and are just like, 'Hold my baby. Take my picture. Sign my shoes,'" Hubbard said of her roommate. "I think it's just overwhelming. It's kind of scary when a bunch of random people are just all in your business." □

Associated Press

MLB players gave \$50,000 to minor leaguers

By RONALD BLUM

AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The union for Major League Baseball players gave \$50,000 to their unionized minor league counterparts. The payment was made in November 2021, according to the annual financial disclosure dated March 31 and filed by the Major League Baseball Players Association with the U.S. Labor Department. Players on 40-man major league rosters are represented by the union and have a minimum salary of \$700,000 in the ma-

ior leagues and \$57,200 for a player in the minors under his first big league contract. For unionized players with minor league contracts, the weekly minimum is \$500 per week at Class A, \$600 at Double-A and \$700 at Triple-A over the roughly five-month season. The union paid \$2,223,064 in 2021 to Winston & Strawn, the law firm of Jeffrey Kessler. The firm was retained to represent the union in the grievance against MLB over the pandemic-shortened 2020 season, a case that was dropped last month as

part of the memorandum of agreement for a labor contract running until December 2026, a deal that ended a 99-day lockout. The union had \$271.2 million in cash, U.S. Treasury securities and investments on Dec. 31, up from \$178.5 million at the end of 2020, \$159.5 million at the end of 2019, \$102.4 million at the end of 2018 and \$80.1 million at the end of 2017. The union usually prepares for bargaining by withholding licensing money due to players and keeping it available to disburse during or after a stoppage.



Major League Baseball Players Association Executive Director Tony Clark, right, answers a question at a press conference in their offices in New York, Friday, March 11, 2022.

Associated Press

Union head Tony Clark again topped staff with a \$2.25 million salary, and chief negotiator Bruce Meyer was at \$1 million.

The union did not give any money in 2021 to the Players Trust, which last year hired Amy Hever as its new director. □

Tiger Woods plans to play the Masters and thinks he can win

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — Two words can go a long way when Tiger Woods is behind them.

No one would have been surprised if Woods never played golf again after a car crash in Los Angeles that damaged his right leg so badly he said doctors raised the prospect of amputation. Out of the public eye for nine months, Woods sent hopes soaring last November with a video of him swinging the club with a simple message, "Making progress."

And here is at Augusta National, making a Monday practice round feel like Sunday at a major because of the gallery, walking the steep slopes, swinging well and making it clear he has every intention of playing in the Masters.

Does he think he can win? Woods offered the shortest answer of his press conference: "I do."

He said Tuesday he is planning to play and thinks he can win. Never mind that it will be 508 days from the last time he played a tournament where he had to walk, or that he returns to this Masters with screws and rods still holding the bones in place in his right leg.

Woods also is 46. He would be the oldest Masters



Tiger Woods drops golf balls on the driving range during a practice round for the Masters golf tournament on Tuesday, April 5, 2022, in Augusta, Ga.

Associated Press

champion by three weeks over Jack Nicklaus.

The biggest question is how he holds up over 18 holes for four straight days. Woods walked 18 holes last week — his first big test — during a scouting trip with 13-year-old son Charlie (including a stop at the Par 3 course). He played the back nine on Sunday, the front nine on Monday.

Woods plans nine more for Wednesday and then it's "game time." He is to tee off at 10:34 a.m. Thursday with Louis Oosthuizen and Joaquin Niemann.

"I can hit it just fine. I don't

have any qualms about what I can do physically from a golf standpoint," Woods said. "Walking is the hard part. This is normally not an easy walk to begin with. Now given the conditions that my leg is in, it gets even more difficult.

"Seventy-two holes is a long road and it's going to be a tough challenge," he said. "And a challenge that I'm up for."

That might be the biggest reason Woods is even at Augusta National for more than the sushi and miso-glazed cod and Wagyu beef that defending cham-

pion Hideki Matsuyama put on the menu for the champions-only dinner Tuesday night.

If he never plays — if he never wins — Woods said he is satisfied with what he has achieved.

"I think 82 is a pretty good number," Woods said. "And 15 is not too bad, either."

His 15 majors are second only to Jack Nicklaus and his 18, the gold standard in golf. He is tied with Sam Snead for the PGA Tour career record with 82 wins.

So why keep coming back? What else is there to prove?

"I love competing," Woods said. "And I feel like if I can still compete at the highest level, I'm going to. And if I feel like I can still win, I'm going to play."

"I don't show up to an event unless I think I can win it. So that's the attitude I've had," he said. "There will be a day when it won't happen, and I'll know when that is."

Shortly after he spoke, the starting times were released. Woods is helped by being part of the early-late rotation, meaning he will have some 22 hours between rounds.

Otherwise, Tuesday was mostly a wash. Woods wasn't planning on anything more than working on the range, anyway, and even that worked in his favor. Heavy storms moved over Augusta about the time he finished his work, and the course was closed the rest of the day.

As long as Woods has been part of Masters lore — Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer once predicted he would win more green jackets than both of them combined (10) — the reality is rust from no serious competition and a body that has endured at least 10 surgeries to both legs and his back. But he's planning to play, and that feels like enough. For now. □



Cuba's Julio Cesar La Cruz reacts after defeating Muslim Gadzhimagomedov of the Russian Olympic Committee, at the 2020 Summer Olympics, Aug. 6, 2021 in Tokyo, Japan.

Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Cuban boxers will be allowed to fight professionally for the

first time since the 1960s under a deal with a Mexican promoter, officials said.

Cuban boxers can go pro under deal with Mexican promoter

The scope of the deal announced Monday wasn't immediately clear. The Mexican promoter, Golden Ring, appears to operate primarily in Aguascalientes, a city of nearly 900,000 people in north-central Mexico.

It held an event last year with Cubans participating on an amateur basis. The first bouts under the new agreement are scheduled for May, according to Cuban officials.

Cuba has been a global power in boxing on the amateur level, focusing heavily on Olympic success. It won four gold medals at

the past Tokyo Olympics. But for decades, Cuban sporting officials shunned the professional sport and lauded champions such as Teófilo Stevenson and Félix Savón never went pro.

"The moment has come. We have spent years studying this possibility," said Ariel Sainz, vice president of the official Institute of Sport, appearing on state television Monday night.

"In professional boxing now there are opportunities for our athletes that we can perfectly well utilize."

He also noted it would allow athletes to improve their incomes. Many Cu-

ban athletes from other sports have left the island in recent decades to seek a lucrative professional career not available at home under Cuba's socialist system.

Under the deal, Cuban officials said the boxers would get 80% of the earnings while trainers, doctors and the federation would split the remaining 20%.

Alberto Puig, president of the Cuban Federation of Boxing, said that professional boxing had "humanized" itself in recent years and argued there are now few differences in the rules. □